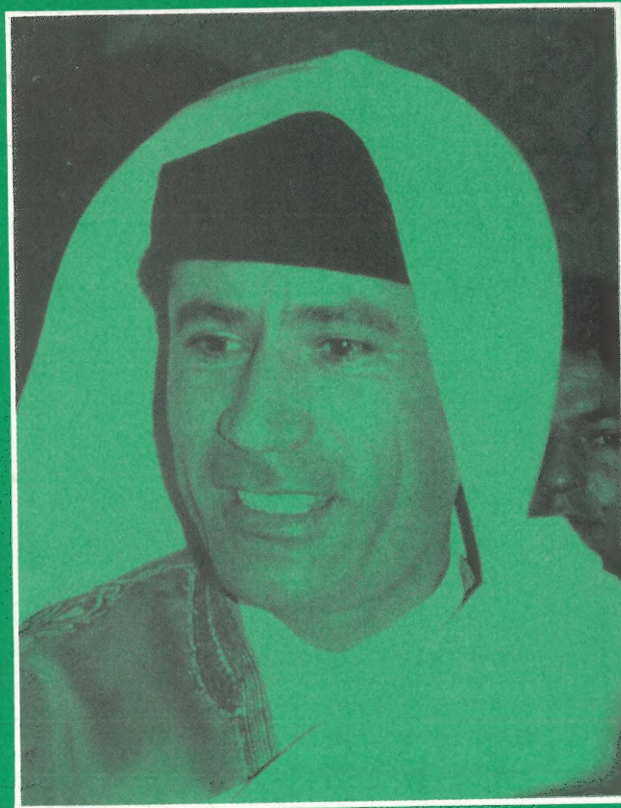


# THE GREEN BOOK



BY MUAMMAR AL QADHAFI

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The solution of the Economic Problem

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Copies of The Green Book can be obtained from The Information Department, The Libyan People's Bureau of the Socialist Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 5 St James's Square, London SW1.

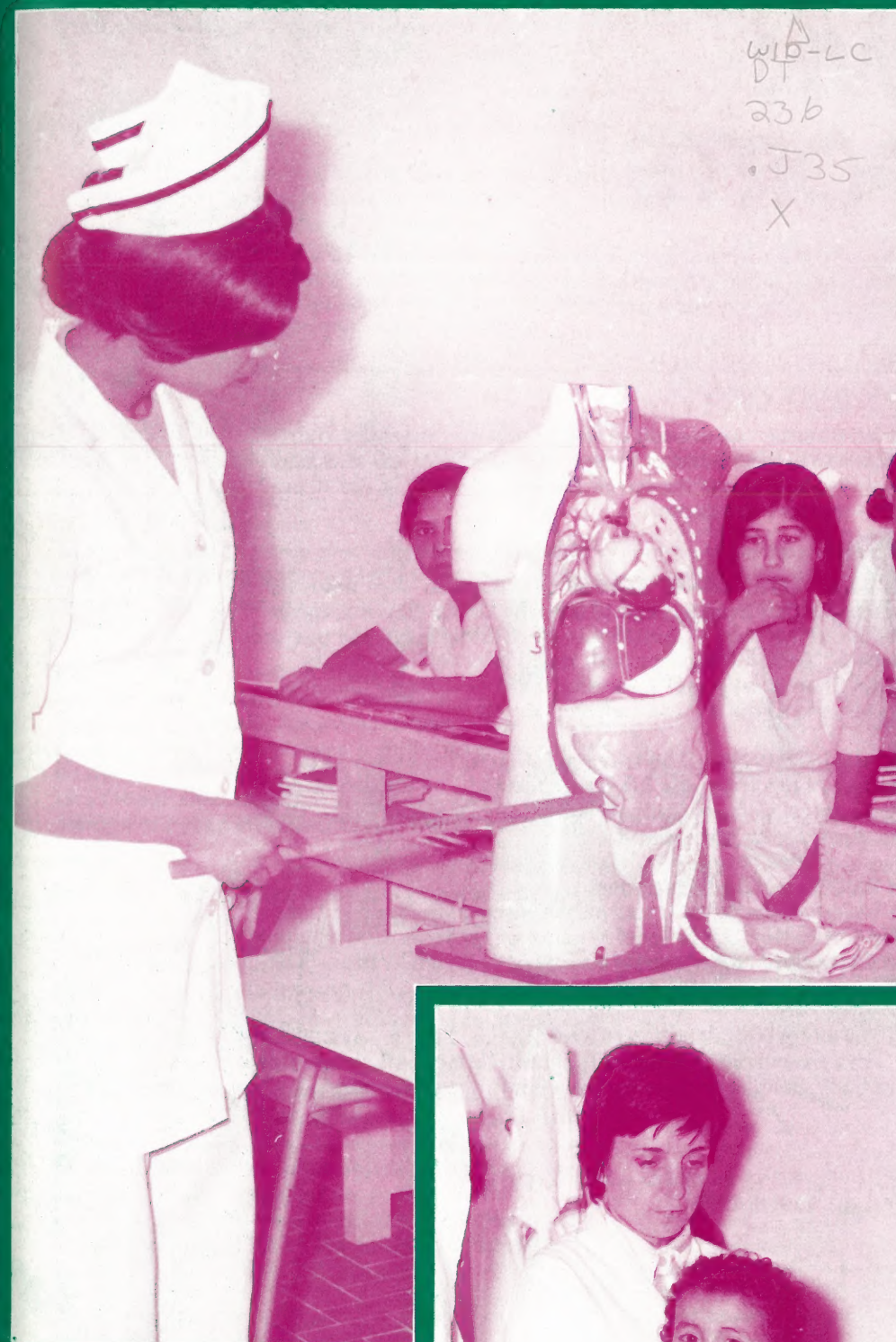
# jamahiriya review

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# jamahiriya review

August 1980

Issue No 3

ONE OF the outstanding achievements of the Libyan Revolution has been the rapid development and expansion of the Jamahiriya's health and welfare services. In a special report we look at the scope of the services now freely available to all Libyan citizens in a country once considered amongst the most ill-equipped in the world with regard to health services.

WHEN LIBYA became an independent state in the early 1950s the event was the outcome of several years of intrigue by the big powers. Dr Alan George looks at the manoeuvring which went on in the capitals of the world and at the United Nations, which ended with Libya enjoying little more than 'nominal independence' under a regime compliant to western interests.

FIRM SUPPORT for the cause of women's rights has come from Libya's revolutionary leader, Muammer Qadhafi. A correspondent reports on the recent Copenhagen women's conference sponsored by the UN, and asserts that the women's movement lacks the political content which can overcome the divides between East and West, North and South.

IN LATIN America the Pope has taken a firm stand on issues of poverty and exploitation. Jamahiriya Review looks at the common ground between this radical Christian message and the principles of Islam, and asks whether there are grounds for greater co-operation between the two faiths.

FOLLOWING THE independence of Zimbabwe under African rule, world attention is now focused on Namibia which remains under the iron hand of racist administration from South Africa. Our Africa correspondent reports on the prospects for Namibia's independence and the obstacles which are placed in its path by the apartheid regime.

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## Arab Unity: When will the talking stop?

IT IS difficult to fault the observations expressed by the Libyan Jamahiriya regarding the state of the Arab homeland. This territory which embraces some twenty-one separate Arab states has the potential to emerge before the end of the century as one of the major world powers. It has the economic and human resources to do so.

Yet the sad fact is that the Arab homeland is not only divided over loyalties to external powers, handicapped by personal ambitions of Arab rulers, and humiliated by the Zionist occupation of areas of its land. More serious than all of this, is the total inability of the Arab regimes to adopt a single practical policy or programme, and put it into action.

The outcome of the July convention of the Arab Economic and Social Council held in Amman is only the latest, sad, example. The terminology of its final communiqué read like the preamble of an Arab Manifesto for Unity. It recognised the urgent tasks facing the Arab nation, and it outlined the principles on how they should be overcome. But instead of setting up the organisation to get on with the task, the Council — attended by Arab Foreign and Economy Ministers — could agree on nothing more practical than to establish yet two more committees 'to evaluate and examine' the proposals put forward during the four day conference.

No one disputes that the forging of true Arab unity cannot be achieved overnight. But at the same time why should the Arab people and the international community as a whole, believe that more will emerge from these new committees than the plethora of earlier committees which have deliberated the same issues and similar proposals over the past decades.

The cause of Arab unity has been an issue since the colonial powers intrigued to divide the Arab homeland. It has been a cause to which every Arab ruler pays lip service, particularly when it serves him to do so. Gamal Nasser emerged through the Egyptian Revolution as a champion of Arab unity, yet because of the obstacles created by both foreign and Arab regimes it was no closer when he died. The torch was taken by the Al-Fateh Revolution in Libya, and Arab unity remains a central principle of that Revolution.

To the westerner the whole issue of Arab unity may seem abstract and irrelevant. However, it has to be recognised that the concept of Arab unity transcends moves towards regional co-operation elsewhere in the world, such as the European community. Factors such as the economic benefits of such unity are common to both, but for the Arabs the ideal is not so much 'unity' *per se*, but 're-union'. The divisions within the Arab world are not ethnic, they are territorial. The Arab homeland is a single entity, embracing a single language, heritage and for most Arabs a single religious faith. This is not true of Europe, Africa or elsewhere. The ideal of Arab unity has unique foundations.

The colonial powers were primarily responsible for the partition of that territorial unity, and for implanting regional regimes compliant with the interests of the colonial power concerned. The problem of division of the Arab homeland was merely compounded by the characteristics of political rulers, forever keen to protect and consolidate the vestiges of their powers. As a consequence those rulers who claim to speak for their people have a vested interest in obstructing plans for unity, on whatever level they may be conceived.

For the Arab people to have a part of their territory in Palestine occupied by a colonial force of Zionists, and to

witness the humiliation and degradation of the Arab Palestinians, is a paramount indignity. This fact is little recognised, even by those western and foreign political powers keen to strengthen and expand their spheres of influence in the Arab homeland and wider Islamic community. Palestine remains under Zionist occupation today as much because of petty rivalries between Arab rulers as the power of the United States in protecting its Middle East protégé.

A principled commitment to Arab unity and co-operation, would enhance the welfare and dignity of the Arab nation. Instead, Arab rulers subject their people to conflicts related either to the interests of foreign powers and ideologies which are of no real concern or benefit to the Arab nation, or bloodshed brought about as one Arab regime plots and subverts another, in the image of the colonialists, simply to expand its influence and hopefully create a much needed ally in the councils of the Arab nation.

The situation in Lebanon, where the death toll of the civil war exceeds that of Arabs killed in four Arab-Zionist wars, is an example of the tragedy of the Arab world. It is not only a microcosm of the intrigues of non-Arab forces which have so damaged the Arab homeland, but also of the internal and self-inflicted subversion within the Arab homeland. As Muammer Qadhafi declared during June when he addressed a rally at Ras Lanuf, marking the tenth anniversary of Libya's victory in expelling American forces from the Jamahiriya, the conflict in Lebanon has been too much the responsibility of the Arab regimes, while the greatest crime is the Arab inability to respond to Lebanon's defence in the face of persistent aggressions by the Zionists.

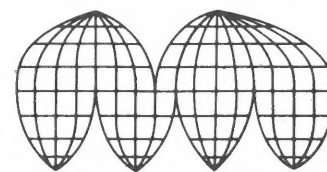
Lebanon should be a warning to the Arab nation. The record of death and destruction inflicted on that country was no simple accident. Like all Arab countries, Lebanon was created to suit imperialist interests, its political system designed to protect those interests, the tensions created as a result of Zionist and colonialist intrigues, and the conflict inflamed by intervention of almost every Arab regime bent on exploiting sectarian and class enmity to serve its own ambitions.

As Arab rulers inflict bloodshed on their people, the Arab nation is sickened by the corruption, whether it be political, economic or moral, within its midst. The Arab people are appalled by the actions of their governments, and saddened by the inaction to deal with the urgent issues which demand immediate attention.

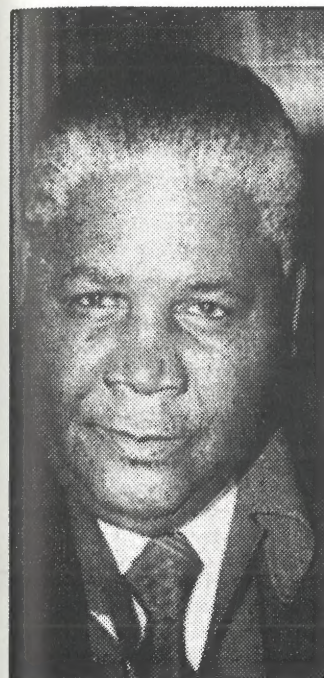
This picture of the Arab homeland today may not, it is true, be more depressing than that provided by the examination of other areas of the developing Third World. But for the Arab people it is infinitely more tragic. The Arab nation has the potential, yet year by year this potential is subverted and crippled. There is no shortage of men and women with the vision of Nasser and Qadhafi, but so long as the forces that divided the Arab homeland are served by those who claim to represent the Arab nation, the problem will continue.

These divisions in the Arab homeland, and their consequences, may suit the governments and capitalist interests of western nations. Nevertheless, foreign influences are not all powerful, and corrupt regimes are not irremovable. The Arab nation looks to progressive thinkers and movements in the West to support their counterparts in the Arab homeland, rather than to despise the Arab people because of the corrupt actions by certain rulers.

A monthly  
review of  
Libyan, Islamic  
and Third World  
affairs



PANORAMA  
news review



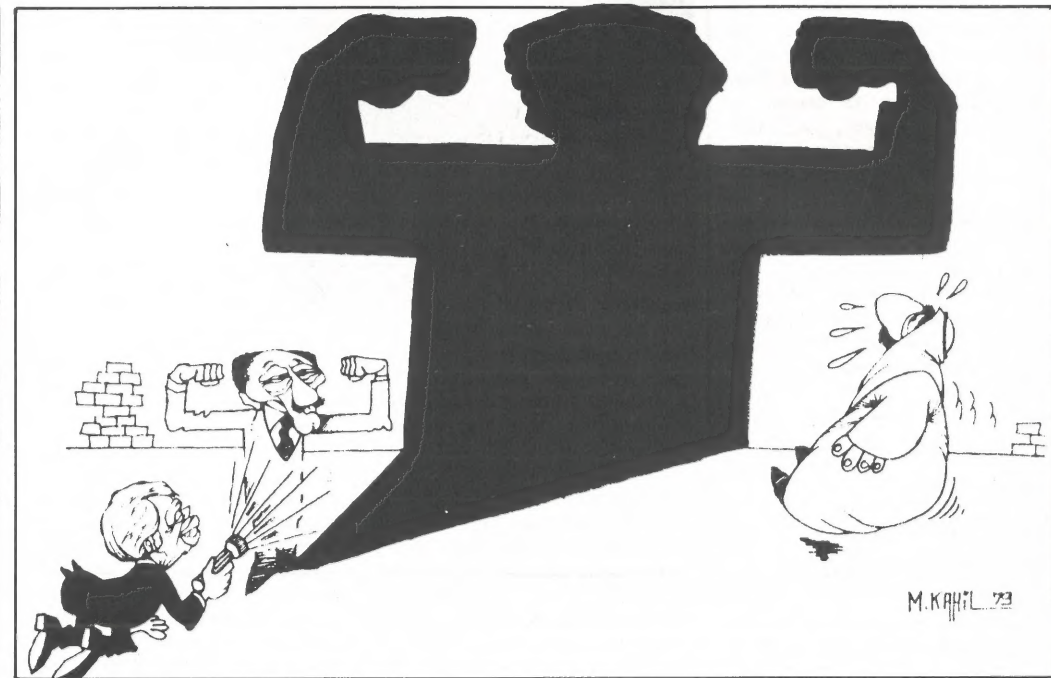
Mr Joshua Nkomo

### Nkomo files to Tripoli to say 'Thank you'

THE FORMER Zimbabwean liberation leader Mr Joshua Nkomo surprised western diplomatic observers in early July by breaking a stay in London for a brief visit to the Libyan Jamahiriya. On his return from Tripoli Mr Nkomo, who holds the Home Affairs portfolio in Mr Robert Mugabe's government, declined to talk about his visit to Libya. He told newsmen, 'I am visiting a number of countries I have worked with in the past. I want to say a thank you to them for what they have done for Zimbabwe.'

News of Mr Nkomo's departure for Libya caused controversy amongst Britain's poorly informed foreign affairs specialists. The London press speculated that Mr Nkomo's visit could be linked with plans to involve the Libyan Jamahiriya in a bid to oust Mr Mugabe from the Premier-ship.

Observers of Libyan affairs see the British press reports as a rather pathetic attempt to implicate the Jamahiriya in disruption of the African state's internal affairs. None of the London press mentioned that Libya and Zimbabwe had, only a few days earlier, agreed to exchange diplomatic missions, nor the long-standing ties between the Jama-



hiriya, Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo.

In a speech given in honour of a Libyan delegation visiting Zimbabwe in early July, Mr Mugabe pointed to the historic friendly relations between the Libyan and Zimbabwean peoples. The African premier said that Colonel Qadhafi and the Libyan people had stood by all their commitments to the Zimbabwean people in their quest for freedom and independence.

'We need Colonel Qadhafi's support because he is the true champion of Africa and a veritable freedom fighter against colonialism and reaction in the Arab world and Africa,' Mr Mugabe declared.

'The Jamahiriya's people have given us financial and political aid in training the Zimbabwean people militarily. This aid had a big effect on the attainment of freedom from racism by the Zimbabwean people,' said Mr Mugabe.

### Palestinians get backing over rejection of 242

AS THE European Community is about to embark on a fact-finding mission to the Middle East to prepare the content of the EEC's initiative on the Palestine question, Arab foreign and economy ministers meeting in Amman during early July

declared their rejection of UN Security Council Resolution 242 as wholly inadequate in respect of Palestinian legitimate rights.

The text of the communiqué issued at the end of the conference held under the auspices of the Arab Economic and Social Council indicates a hardening of the Arab stand, with more moderate and conservative regimes apparently endorsing the rejection of Resolution 242 long proclaimed by the PLO, the Libyan Jamahiriya and other members of the Steadfastness Front.

The Venice Declaration which followed the recent summit of EEC heads of states and endorsed plans for the European commission to investigate the Palestine problem has been condemned within the Arab homeland because it asserts that a Middle East settlement should be based partly on the terms of Resolution 242.

The Arab ministers rejected United States Security Council Resolution 242 as inadequate and said a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict was possible only through respect for Palestinian rights. An end-of-conference communiqué said, 'UN Security Council Resolution 242 does not agree with the national rights of the Arabs, especially the rights of the Palestinian people. The Arab stance is based on UN resolutions which safeguard these rights, especially resolution 3236, which is con-

sidered a basis for the solution of the Palestine problem.'

Resolution 242, which was adopted after the June 1967 Middle East war, refers to the Palestinians only as refugees and makes no mention of Palestinian statehood. General Assembly Resolution 3236 was adopted in November 1974 and reaffirmed the 'inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination', and to return to their homes and properties from which they had been expelled by the Zionists. It also recognised that the 'Palestinian people are a principal party in the establishment of a just and durable peace in the Middle East.'

A report on the economic resolutions of the Amman summit appears on page 16.

### Washington's strange view of the world

A CONGRESSIONAL report published in Washington on 8th July expresses concern at Libya's influence in North Africa, which it sees as a 'serious threat to American interests in the region.'

The House Foreign Affairs Committee asserts in its Report that America must act to resist and strengthen regimes in North Africa which are willing to operate in tandem with United States interests in the area. It warns that Washington must be alert to



Libya's policies in the area. The report seems unaware that events in the Maghreb are of direct importance to the Jamahiriya's security, Libya being an integral part of that region.

The report, written after a two-week April study mission to the region, calls for more military and economic aid to Tunisia. It also calls for a negotiated settlement to the Western Sahara dispute, and accuses Algeria of lacking enthusiasm in helping to create 'a negotiating climate', although Washington rejects independence for the Sahrawi people under Moroccan occupation.

In Malta, the reports says, Libya has mounted an extensive investment programme, but admits that Prime Minister Dom Mintoff 'was not concerned about that and felt the Libyan presence was beneficial to the Mediterranean island.'

## Qadhafi draws the line between politics and Islam

A WARNING has come from the Libyan revolutionary leader that politics should not be the concern of the mosques. Speaking during Friday prayers at the Jadou Mosque on 11th July Brother Qadhafi said, 'Mosques are not dedicated for excitement and agitation, nor for dealing with secular problems, because if they are turned into places where political, economic and social problems are discussed, then they stop being mosques and become administrative centres.'

He said that it was wrong for politics to influence the Muslim faith. The result was the establishment of sects which weaken and divide the Islamic movement. 'Sects' and 'faiths', he stressed, have no place in Islam. He placed responsibility for the emergence of so-called Islamic faiths on colonial scholars who had encouraged and emphasised such divisions.

## Libya offers air cover to Lebanon

AGAINST A background of repeated Israeli air attacks on south Lebanon and over-flights of the whole country, Beirut radio reported on 5th July that Lebanese Premier Salim al Huss had received the Libyan chargé d'affairs who said afterwards that he had stressed the Jamahiriya's support for Lebanon and added, 'We also discussed the question of Egyptian military concentrations along our eastern



Lebanese Premier Solh confers with Muammer Qadhafi during an earlier meeting in Tripoli.

border and Libya's offer to provide Lebanon with air cover, a matter that Lebanon had referred to the appropriate authorities for study.'

The original offer of air cover for Lebanon came in May when the Foreign Secretariat issued a statement deploring Israeli aggressions against Lebanon and declaring Libya's readiness 'to provide all necessary air cover to enable Lebanon to stand firm in the face of Zionist-imperialist ambitions and against all the enemy designs', which it said are 'aimed at the occupation of more Arab territory'.

The Foreign Secretariat denounced the indifference and silence of world public opinion in the face of repeated Israeli attacks on the Lebanese people and on the Palestinians in Lebanon.

The July meeting between the chargé d'affairs and the Lebanese Premier came amid a rapid deterioration of the fragile situation in Lebanon, where the civil war that reached its climax in 1976 has never died down completely. In mid July the extreme right wing Christian Phalange party, which receives Israeli backing, launched an offensive against the rival National Liberal Party, led by former Lebanese President Camille Chamoun. The victorious Phalangists, led by Pierre Gemayel and his son Bashir, having crushed the NLP forces, declared a new alliance with the defeated militia and two lesser rightist groups. The Phalangist move was seen as a prelude to an attempt to take over the rest of the country, a view supported by a Phalangist vow to 'crush the dreams' of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

The Palestinians, with their left wing Lebanese allies, are in *de facto* control of western Beirut and much of south Lebanon and observers feel that a rightist onslaught against them may be imminent. To their south, right

wing Lebanese militias under the renegade army Major Sa'ad Haddad, and with full Israeli support and participation, control an enclave of Lebanon along the Israeli border that has been the springboard for repeated assaults against Palestinian-leftist positions to the north, as well as against intervening UNIFIL positions.

The Phalangist move prompted the PLO Executive Committee to order a general mobilisation of Palestinian forces. Speaking on 17th July at a guerrilla training camp in Syria, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat charged Israel and the Phalangists of hatching a 'plot to liquidate the guerrilla movement'. He said the nature of the conspiracy concocted for Lebanon had now become clear: 'Haddad moves in south Lebanon while Bashir Gemayel, with the help of Israel and individuals in the Lebanese army, makes his move in the north with the aim of encircling the Palestinians and the Lebanese National Movement.' He accused the Phalangists of moving to consolidate their position following a meeting between Bashir Gemayel and the Israeli Chief of Staff Rafael Eitan.

In a move designed to check the drift towards a new round of fighting on the scale of that at the height of the civil war, Lebanese President Sarkis on 20th July appointed the veteran politician Mr Takieddin Solh to head a new government to replace that of Mr al Huss, who tendered his resignation in June after three and a half years as Premier. Mr al Huss's government had comprised a team of technocrats but hopes that their non-partisan status might bring national reconciliation and unity proved unfounded. In a new approach with the same aim, Mr Solh has been charged with the difficult task of forming what has been called in Lebanon a 'government of activists', embrac-

ing representatives of the various armed Lebanese factions who wield the real power in the country. Mr Solh is a Sunni Muslim as is customary for Lebanon's prime ministers, and was premier from 1972 to 1974. Noted for his powers of diplomacy, he will need all his skills if Lebanon is to survive as a unified state.

## Help for stranded expatriate workers

THE PLIGHT of a group of foreign workers in the Libyan Jamahiriya is being eased by the authorities in Tripoli, according to a report in *Middle East Economic Digest*. The problem arose when a Franco-Belgian contracting company operating in the Jamahiriya went bankrupt, stranding 12 West European and 82 African workers during March.

The workers were unable to leave the country until tax and social security owed to the Libyan authorities since last November was paid. Now the Belgian government has channelled \$602,836 to pay their salaries and according to *MEED*, 'Libya is believed to be helping to speed up the Europeans' repatriation by calculating social security payments at the lowest possible level, thereby minimising paperwork.'

## Tripoli sends envoy to Kampala

A NEW Libyan ambassador arrived in Kampala in late July and immediately declared that the Jamahiriya is ready to help Uganda rebuild its economy and in the task of rehabilitation and reconstruction. The move comes as a further stage in the rapid improvement in relations between the two countries following the strain created by the Tanzanian invasion and change of regime in the East African state.

The new ambassador is Mohammed al Mismari, the former Libyan ambassador to London. In March this year the Jamahiriya's new chargé d'affairs, Mr Yusuf Klaban, reopened the Libyan mission in Kampala. And in mid-July a Libyan delegation, headed by roving ambassador Mr Ashur Bamagram, arrived in Uganda to promote relations between the two countries. As a consequence of a series of meetings, Mr Paulo Muwanga, Chairman of the interim governing Military Commission, told newsmen that the two countries hold similar views on international issues. He paid tribute to the Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi

for the stand he has taken to promote and defend the interests of the exploited and poor peoples of the world.

Announcing the Libyan delegation's departure from Uganda, Radio Kampala reported on 17th July that the Ugandan Foreign Minister Mr Otema Alimadi had signed an agreement with the Secretary-General of the Joint Organisation for Establishing Islamic Cultural Centres (JOEICC). This provides for the setting up of an Islamic cultural centre in the Ugandan town of Jinja. The centre, to cost more than 70 million Ugandan shillings, will have a school, dispensaries, lecture halls, sports facilities, libraries, a mosque and a housing estate. The JOEICC is a welfare organisation run jointly by the Libyan Jamahiriya and the United Arab Emirates.

During the Amin regime, Libya established a series of joint stock projects with Uganda to assist the country's economic development. Ambassador al Mismari has announced that following the Libyan delegation's earlier visit to Uganda these agencies, including the Libyan-Arab Uganda Bank, would resume operations.

## Bahrain and Seychelles receive aircraft gifts

THE EMIRATE of Bahrain, in the strategic and sensitive Arabian Gulf, has been presented with a helicopter from the Libyan people. The gift was presented on 5th July during a visit to the island state by a Libyan military delegation, and came against a background of the Jamahiriya's vocal concern that the Gulf states should be equipped and able to protect themselves from foreign intervention in the region. Last year the Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi made a major tour of the Arab states, with an itinerary which included several of the conservative Gulf emirates.

The Indian Ocean island state of the Seychelles has also been presented with two Rallye light aircraft. A 4th July report said that the planes had been donated by the Libyan Jamahiriya to assist the country with surveillance of fish stocks around the islands.

## Sadat's military forces ready to strike Libya

FRENCH INTELLIGENCE reports have confirmed that the Sadat regime is preparing for a military aggression against the



Jerusalem: Holy City under new threats from the Zionists.

Libyan Jamahiriya, according to London's *Sunday Telegraph* on 20th July. There are indications, say the French, that an Israeli general staff working group is working with the Egyptian ruler in preparing a blueprint for a full-scale invasion of the Jamahiriya. In preparation a large concentration of crack Egyptian forces has massed on the Libyan border, the report adds.

Meanwhile, there has been increasing support for Libya from within the Arab world. In Amman, the Jordanian capital, during early July, Arab foreign and economy ministers concluded a meeting of the Arab Economic and Social Council with a firm warning to the Cairo regime that it would support the Jamahiriya in the event of any aggression from Egypt.

## Islamic states to extend boycott over Jerusalem

FOREIGN MINISTERS from 39 Islamic states and the Palestine Liberation Organisation have pledged to sever all relations with any state that approves Israel's plans to incorporate East Jerusalem into the Zionist state and make it a part of its capital city. The Islamic states also warned countries supporting Israel to cease their aid or face possible trade boycotts.

A communiqué issued in Amman on 13th July at the close of the third extraordinary meeting of the Islamic conference said: 'All Islamic countries pledge to sever relations with any state which approves the Israeli enemy's decisions to annex Jerusalem and make it its capital, or contributes in implementing this decision, or moves its embassy to Jerusalem.'

The meeting was requested by

the PLO after the car bomb attacks in June against three West Bank mayors, and was called to discuss the question of Jerusalem and to forge a unified Islamic position in preparation for July's UN General Assembly debate on the Palestine question.

The conference came in the wake of the introduction in May in the Zionist parliament (Knesset) of a Bill seeking to declare the whole of Jerusalem as Israel's 'indivisible and eternal capital'.

The western part of the Holy City was seized by the Zionists in 1948 and proclaimed by them the capital of their state. The eastern part, which includes the old walled city and the Dome of the Rock, Islam's third holiest shrine, was occupied in the 1967 Middle East war. Shortly after the war Israel purported to annex the old city, together with a large surrounding area and it has been treated by the Zionists as an integral part of the Zionist state ever since.

The new Bill before the Zionist parliament thus seeks to formalise the existing state of affairs. Only thirteen countries have embassies in Jerusalem, most of them Latin American.

The need for a unified stand by the Islamic states and for firm action against Israel's main backer, the United States, were stressed by Libyan Foreign Secretary Dr Ali Abdusalam Treiki in his address to the conference. He called for concerted action to eradicate completely the 'Zionist plague' in Palestine and to liberate the country and its holy sites. He held Washington responsible for the continued Israeli occupation and urged a retaliatory campaign against American interests in the Islamic and Arab regions.

The conference Secretary-General Mr Habib Shatti of Tunisia told reporters that his secretariat had been instructed to compile a list of countries, companies, individuals and enter-

prises that supported Israel.

'Any action should begin with a warning,' he said. 'If it fails to give positive results, other measures should be applied.'

Asked what these measures might be, Mr Shatti replied that they would include boycotts on trade and economic relations. He said the secretariat's list would be discussed by the Islamic foreign ministers just before the next session of the UN General Assembly starts in September.

## Suspected West German spies freed

SIX WEST German scientists returned home in mid July after having been released from custody by the Libyan authorities. It was in early March that the geologists were detained in the highly sensitive area in the southern Jamahiriya where the borders of Egypt, Sudan and Libya converge. Having crossed from Egypt into Libyan territory, the Germans were suspected of spying or sabotage.

On their return to Berlin, Professor Hans-Werner Linke, of the city's Free University, told Associated Press that 'it was possible that the group did overstep the border'. He said he and his colleagues were 'in good shape, physically as well as mentally,' after their 130-day detention under house arrest in the Tripoli hotel.

Professor Linke added, 'We were treated by Libyan officials in a fair and decent manner, and were not submitted to any harsh interrogation.'

## Istanbul cathedral reconverted to mosque

AFTER A lapse of half a century, Islamic religious services are to be held once more in the former Byzantine cathedral of St Sophia in Istanbul.

St Sophia, built in the 6th century by the Emperor Justinian, and acclaimed as one of the world's greatest architectural masterpieces, was turned into a museum by the Turkish nationalist leader Kemal Ataturk in 1930. Clerical Muslim opinion in Turkey, however, has long pressed for the building to be reopened as a mosque. It was converted into a mosque by Sultan Mahomet the Conqueror in 1453 after the Turkish conquest of Constantinople. The decision to re-start Islamic services was made by the Turkish government on 19th July and the services will commence early in August.



**THERE IS no room for women from the East or the West to be complacent about their status and rights in society. In their respective ways women from both societies, and those which fall into the divide between North and South, must work to overcome their exploited role in society. This was the message from the Libyan Jamahiriya to more than 2,000 delegates attending the Decade for Women Conference in Copenhagen during July.**

UN SECRETARY General Kurt Waldheim, opening the UN Special Conference on Women on 14th July, declared that women worldwide faced illiteracy as one of their worst problems. 'They still lag far behind men in literacy. Two out of every three persons who cannot read or write are women,' declared a sombre Mr Waldheim. He added, 'If the quest for solutions to the world's problems is to emanate from the popular level, as it must, it demands as much involvement from women as men.'

US delegate Dorothy Height, president of the National Council of Negro Women, placed priority on fighting racial discrimination, declaring, 'Unless we deal with racial discrimination, we cannot deal with discrimination based on sex. This is a piece of work in which white women can join us.'

But for many Third World women the issues of priority were those related to survival and human liberation. A Sudanese delegate confronted with a somewhat hostile American demanding a campaign to end circumcision brought this response from her Third World sister: 'But first I have to fight for the right for girls to live to reach puberty.'

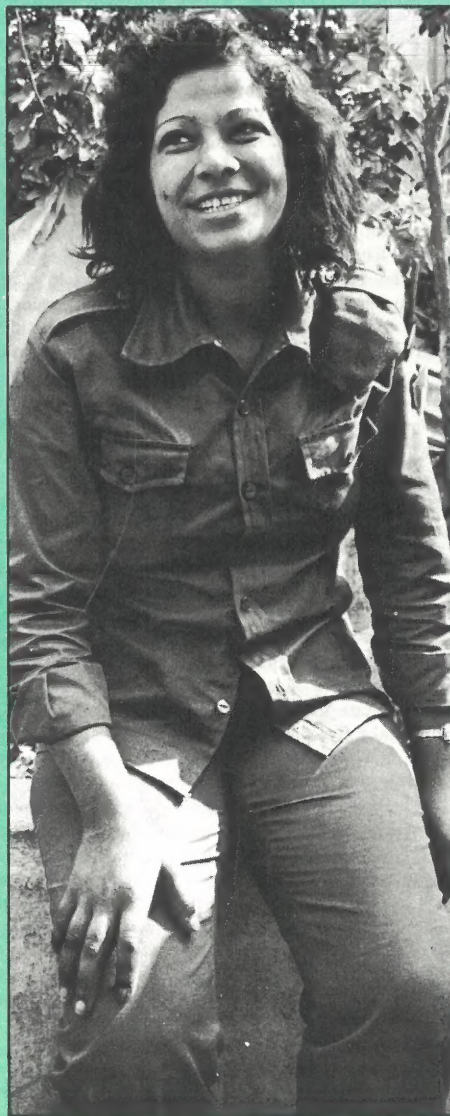
And May Sayegh, heading the PLO delegation, asserted, 'For us the question of the Palestinian state is a woman's problem. We have no other problem until it is solved.' Leila Khaled, also part of the PLO delegation, pointed out, 'We have shared in all the wars against this [Zionist] aggression. Women broke all the old traditions to hold arms and fight alongside men. And as you can see we have won. This is the achievement of our people — that we are here on an international level at this conference, discussing the plight of the Palestinians.'

With a world divided by political ideologies and economic fortunes and deprivations, the Copenhagen conference simply highlighted this fact. In many respects it was not the Third World delegates, who were maligned in the western press for raising national and political

## Muammer Qadhafi gives support for women's rights

issues, that subverted the ability of the conference to unite the women from more than 140 of the 152 UN member states. The limitations were imposed by a refusal to see the issues to which delegates, such as the Palestinians and Sudanese, referred in a political context, and to recognise that the obstacles to emancipation and liberation are not necessarily the same for East and West, North and South.

This said, the issue of discrimination remains a very real and pertinent issue to be resolved in all modern societies. The discrimination and exploitation of women, two sides of a single coin, may be different



*Palestinian women see struggle against Zionism as priority issue.*



from one society to the next, but the challenge to free women from the restrictions imposed on them remains an important task.

'We believe that women are exploited throughout the world,' declared Libya's revolutionary leader Muammer Qadhafi in a message to the conference. 'Perhaps such attempts as your conference will urge women to liberate themselves from the bad conditions in which they exist.'

Qadhafi stressed, 'The woman in the Middle East is a commodity, while in the West she is a productive element and an economic value. Therefore she is neither recognised as a woman in the West, nor is she recognised as a human in the East.'

'Women and man are equal as regards their rights,' the Libyan leader said. 'We call on the women to rebel against this situation in which they find themselves, in order to lift the yoke of injustice. This is the only path towards a happy society, a society where a human being feels that his or her dignity and rights are respected, and where a human being, be it man or woman, feels that he or she belongs to a family.'

Qadhafi renewed his attack on the treatment of women in the Muslim world. He said that in the East 'women are not even recognised as human beings'. And he continued, 'There, women are a kind of slave, or a piece of furniture, in the houses of "sultans" and the rich.' It was abhorrent that women should not 'be equal as human beings,' the Libyan leader added.

Nevertheless, he also took to task the exploiters of women in the West and industrialised nations. Muammer Qadhafi rejected that women should be demeaned by doing 'the hardest job and sometimes the dirtiest' in industry and work, 'in order to earn her living, regardless of her status, as a woman, a wife and a mother.' He added, 'This kind of work destroys her femininity, beauty and nature, which in turn destroys civilisation.'

He saw a danger in industrialised western societies that 'the human race might perish as a result of changing women's natural role and the collapse of the family and the emergence of the non-family committed persons.'

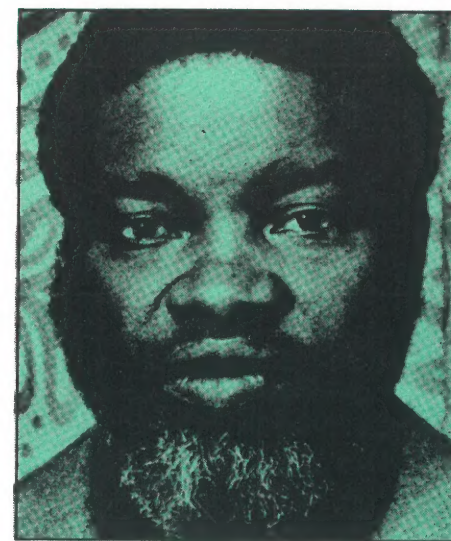
Qadhafi urged women to form 'covert and overt female revolutionary committees in a bid to lift the injustice to which woman is subjected and to offer her a happy life in society.'

EVER SINCE South Africa seized the territory from Germany during the First World War, the Pretoria regime has striven to incorporate Namibia as its fifth province. Failing to achieve that, it has sought to install a pro-South African administration in Windhoek, the territory's capital. The grand designs of the apartheid state to insulate itself from the rising tide of black nationalism by creating friendly buffer states, was however, dealt a mortal blow with the Portuguese coup in 1974 and the emergence subsequently of independent Angola and Mozambique. Similarly, the stunning victory of Robert Mugabe in neighbouring Zimbabwe has irretrievably affected the balance of power in the sub-continent and has jeopardised continued South African hegemony of the region.

In the present state of flux and fomentation, recent regional developments have been ominously received in South Africa where the apartheid authorities are confronted with escalating domestic turmoil. Following the emergence of independent Zimbabwe, a dramatic increase in industrial unrest, urban guerrilla activity, youth militancy and popular action have become noticeable throughout the country. Coupled with this climate of burgeoning internal upheaval, external events have only served to fuel the liberation movement in Namibia. With its proposed constellation of southern African states now in ruins, South Africa finds itself increasingly isolated. The recent death of the moderate Seretse Khama; the uncertainty over the Swazi king's successor; Lesotho's ties with socialist countries and Mozambique's support for anti-South African guerrillas are all viewed with dismay and trepidation in Pretoria.

Only in Namibia have the South Africans been able to temporarily contain the fast deteriorating situation. Apart from massively reinforcing its military presence in the disputed territory, Pretoria has launched repeated raids against Angola and Zambia, with the view to destabilise these countries and intimidate them to abandon their aid of SWAPO. In the past few years, South Africa has stationed over 50,000 soldiers (including Israeli, Chilean and American volunteers) in Namibia together with several dozen aircraft and armoured units in a vain effort both to wipe out SWAPO and to support the pro-Western UNITA renegades against the Angolan government. The intention is to create an autonomous mini-state in southern Angola which would be beholden to South Africa in the same way as Saad Haddad's fiefdom in southern Lebanon is dependent on Israeli sponsorship.

Ever since the formulation of the UN's decolonisation plan for Namibia (as embraced in the Security Council resolution No 435 of 29th September 1978) South Africa has endeavoured to frustrate Namibia's smooth transition to independence. It has dragged its feet by hindering the establishment of the proposed demilitarised zone between Angola and Namibia



*Sam Nujoma: Leading Namibia to freedom*

## Namibia: Prospects after Zimbabwe

**THE FIFTEEN year old bush war for the possession of Namibia has intensified since the independence of Zimbabwe. In this huge and sparsely populated mineral rich territory, the South West People's Organisation (SWAPO) is locked in bitter struggle with the South African occupying forces. In defiance of international opinion South Africa is determined to maintain its hold over Namibia.**

which is intended to be a prerequisite for UN supervised elections in the territory. Instead of conducting direct negotiations with SWAPO, which the UN has recognised as the authentic representative of the Namibian people, the South Africans have sought to bypass the Security Council by discussing the territory's future with five Western nations (which all have substantial economic and mineral interests in the region). From the time contact between South Africa on the one hand and America, Britain, Canada, France and West Germany on the other hand was first established over two years ago, Pretoria has raised a number of inordinate and petty objections all aimed to gain time for its puppets in the territory to consolidate themselves. The Western powers have largely obliged and tried to pacify South Africa.

Fearful that an outright SWAPO victory and the subsequent political oblivion of pro-South African elements is now a distinct possibility after Zimbabwe, Pretoria has vacillated from periodic optimism to capricious rejection of any imminent independence for Namibia. Concurrent with its policies of prevarication with the UN and the five contact nations, South Africa has assiduously encouraged its own internal settlement in Namibia. By applying a revamped version of its Bantustan policy in the territory, Pretoria has succeeded in generating such a degree of political fragmentation that the white community has retained absolute authority. Even the convening of the Turnhalle conference in 1975 and the formation of the ethnic-based Namibian National Assembly, in which the right-wing white dominated DTA along with its tribal collaborators captured nearly all the seats, has proved to be nothing but a public relations exercise. Since total power is vested in the administrator-general, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, a former chairman of the conservative and elite *Broederbond*, Pretoria's recent decision to form a Council of Ministers drawn from the unrecognised National Assembly to oversee the territory's affairs gives credence to the view that South Africa intends to maintain its grip over Namibia by granting it unilateral independence.

Confronted by the uncompromising attitude of the international forum and by mounting guerrilla insurgency in northern Namibia, South Africa recently invaded Angola to forestall any concerted SWAPO offensive. In a massive air and land operation, the invasion forces penetrated deep into Angola but faced unexpectedly stiff resistance from both the Angolan army and SWAPO. Despite grandiose South African claims, SWAPO once again not only survived the fearsome onslaught but its Angolan hosts have reaffirmed their support for the liberation struggle in Namibia. In fact, the raid only emphasised SWAPO's ever-growing military capability in inflicting considerable damage against South African forces in Namibia.

Besides adopting classical hit and run guerrilla tactics and highly effective industrial sabotage, SWAPO has also emerged victorious from several skirmishes with the occupying forces and has even penetrated the urban areas further south.

Partly as a result of its increasing military effectiveness, SWAPO has extended its mass support throughout Namibia in spite of the overwhelming South African presence of South African troops and their black allies. Although its unproscribed internal wing is under constant surveillance, SWAPO has managed to broaden its power base to include the rest of the non-Ovambo population, thereby ensuring success in any forthcoming election. By operating right under the noses of the omnipresent South Africans, SWAPO has become the undisputed champions of liberation in Namibia.





Christian-Muslim Dialogue: Cardinal Pignadoli meets with Muammar Qadhafi in the Jamahiriya during 1976.

## Prospects for Muslim-Christian action

THE PROSPECTS for greater co-operation between the Christian and Muslim faiths have been greatly enhanced by the recent statements from Pope John Paul II during his tour of Brazil, when he denounced the exploitation and oppression of the peasant and working classes.

Against the background of the Muslim-Christian Dialogue staged in the Libyan Jamahiriya in 1976, the Pope's call for the Catholic Church to identify with progressive movements in the Third World will be particularly welcomed by Islamic progressives. Many of the points raised by the Pope share a common approach to man's needs and the views expressed by Muammar Qadhafi, the Libyan revolutionary leader, in his *Green Book*.

The Pope's words were hardly an incitement to Christian priests in the Third World to work for social, political and economic change. In this respect the Catholic hierarchy in the Vatican has long acted to stem the tide of revolution and reform in which Third World Christians have actively played a prominent role.

The Pontiff's declaration in Salvador City during July that 'Every society, if it does not want to be destroyed from within, must establish a just social order,' provided a refreshing reaffirmation of the basic precepts on which the Christian and Islamic faiths are based.

Both Muammar Qadhafi and the Pope have stressed the urgency for Muslims and Christians to unite on the basis of the common values and beliefs which bind them in subservience to one God, and to set about confronting the urgent social and moral issues in the contemporary world. The Pope's latest pronouncements suggest that both men are moved by similar values, and recognise common rights and goals.

Co-operation between Libya and the Vatican is not impossible. They jointly organised the 1976 Muslim-Christian Dialogue in Tripoli, at which Muammar Qadhafi called on Christians and Muslims to work together for the good of mankind, on the basis of common values and

**DURING his recent tour of Brazil, Pope John Paul II spoke out in defence of justice and liberation from need. A special contributor looks at the parallels between the Pope's message and the values of the Islamic Revolution in Muammar Qadhafi's *Green Book*.**

beliefs. And the Pope returned to this theme when he visited Turkey recently. He said of the Muslim faith, 'When I think of this spiritual patrimony and the value which it has for man and society, of its capacity to offer above all to the young a direction to their lives, to fill the void left by materialism, to give a sure foundation to the very social and juridical order, I ask myself if it is not urgent, just as Muslims and Christians have entered a new period in their history, to recognise and develop the spiritual ties which unite us.'

By speaking out in Brazil, the Pope has given the Church the political dimension which Islam has always embraced in its social and economic codes. Speaking in Sao Paulo on 3rd July, the Pontiff defended the right of workers to seek fair wages and improved living conditions. He declared, 'An exclusive economic logic, depraved by crass materialism has invaded all fields of human existence, damaging the environment, threatening families and destroying all respect for the human person.'

And four days later, in Salvador City, the Pope spoke out in defence of the oppressed peasants: 'Land is the gift of God which he gives to all human beings. It is not right to manage this gift in such a way that its benefits profit only a few while the rest, the immense majority, remain excluded.'

And he continued by expressing his support for the struggle of the workers through the formation of trade unions: 'The right of participation with a sense of responsibility in the life of business and organisations intended to refine and safeguard their interests cannot be denied to the workers of the land, or other workers, under any pretext.'

There are parallels between the positions taken by the Pope in Brazil and those of the Islamic Revolution sweeping the Muslim world. The mainspring of the Islamic Revolution is a return to the fundamental values of Islam and a rejection of the corruptions of the religion that have been used as a pretext for oppression and exploitation. These values are eloquently elaborated in Muammar Qadhafi's *Green Book* and provide the basis for the principles on which Libya's Al-Fateh Revolution is founded.

Yet the Pope is likely to find himself under strong pressures on his return to Europe to renounce his statements. The Christian Church in the industrialised nations has long been an integral part of the establishment in capitalist society, owing much of its power and prestige to the colonial ventures of the governments to which it is allied.

In contemporary times the Muslim faith has been most firmly rooted in the deprived nations of the Third World, and consequently finds itself allied with Third World struggles and aspirations. The question arising from the Pope's recent pronouncements is whether the Catholic faith can bridge the divide between the developing and the industrialised countries.

The Pope returned to traditional edicts in denouncing the use of violence and armed revolutionary struggle. But in an apparent shift of view, John Paul II warned, 'Justice will either be achieved through thoroughgoing and brave reforms on principles which respect man's dignity, or it will be achieved by the forces of violence.'

ALTHOUGH Islam is now so widely held as a faith in Britain that it ranks as the second religion to Christianity, few Christians and Jews have any understanding of the significance and rites of Ramadan. Even to many who travel in the Islamic world, Ramadan is not appreciated beyond the act of fasting from sunrise to sunset observed by every Muslim.

Ramadan is the ninth month in the Islamic calendar. However, the fast of Ramadan is also the fourth of the 'five pillars' of Islam — the fundamental tenets of the faith which include belief in one God, recognition of the Prophet Mohamed as the last and final of the prophets, the *Haji* or pilgrimage to Mecca, and *zakat*, the tax paid by every Muslim for charitable purposes.

During Ramadan, Muslims must fast from dawn to sunset every day, to fulfill the command in the Quran (Sura II 187) to 'eat and drink until the white thread shows clearly to you from the black thread at the dawn; then complete the fast until nightfall.'

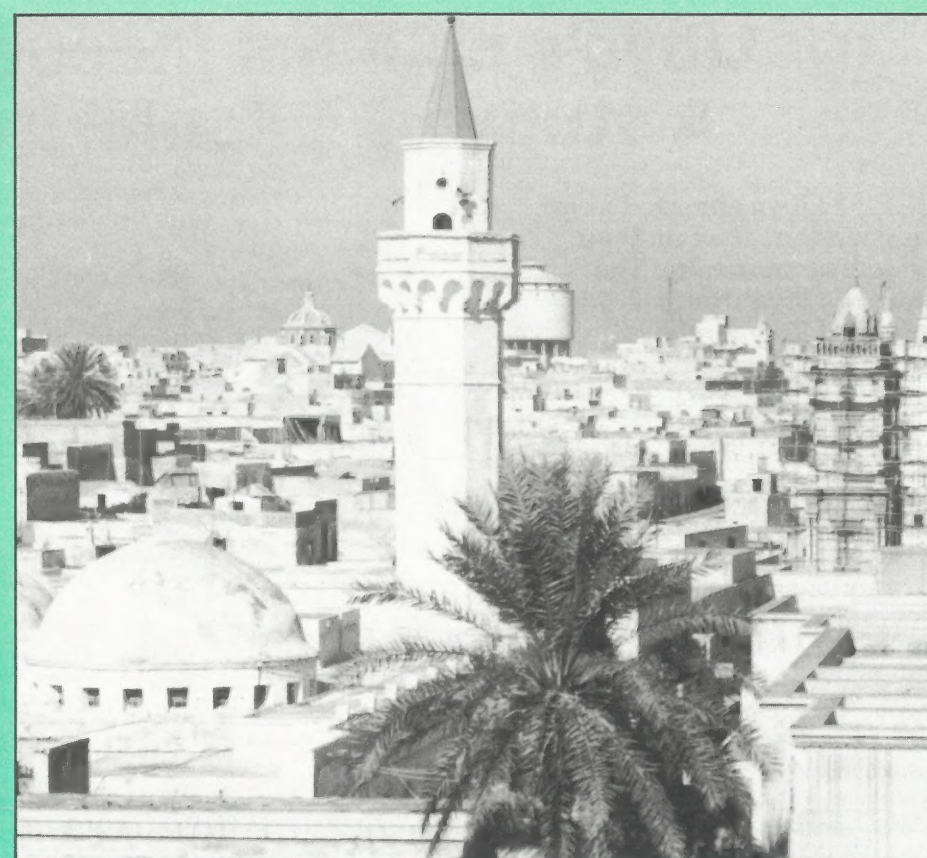
Virtually all Muslims must observe the fast, although in character with Islam exceptions are made for humanitarian reasons. Fasting is particularly arduous in the hot climates of the Middle East and North Africa, and those exempted from the strains of observing the command include children, the aged and the sick, *bona fide* travellers undertaking arduous journeys, those engaged in heavy manual labour, women undergoing menstruation, and expectant mothers and those nursing babies.

The fast itself is very strict. Before dawn each day during Ramadan, Muslims are expected to proclaim their intention to fast (*niya*) and to abstain (*imsak*) until sunset. During the hours of daylight no food or liquid may pass their lips, and such activities as smoking are also forbidden. A saying attributed to the Prophet Mohamed (a *hadith*) says, 'The scent of the breath of a fasting man is pleasanter to God than the scent of musk.'

After sunset, the fast is broken by light refreshment, followed by a breakfast (*suhr*), which is usually eaten in the company of relatives and friends. The hours of darkness are also given to prayers and celebrations, and emphasis is accorded especially to the joys of Paradise and the honours that will accrue there to those who observe the fast correctly.

But Ramadan has a greater meaning than fasting, and involves much more than abstinence during hours of daylight. It involves a moral and social code, and a commitment to charitable deeds.

In accordance with one of the *hadith* which states, 'The result of fasting is only hunger and thirst if one does not keep his hands and feet from evil deeds,' it is incumbent on Muslims to refrain from all evil thoughts, deeds or words during Ramadan. No benefit can be gained from fasting if a Muslim's mind is not constantly preoccupied with spiritual matters. The month, therefore, becomes a period



Tripoli's Old City skyline emphasises the inspiration of Islam.

## The meaning of Ramadan

**IN EARLY August Muslims throughout the world will celebrate the end of the month of Ramadan with celebrations and feasts. It will mark the end of a period in which Muslims are committed to fasting and strict observance of the codes of Islam.**

of intense meditation and prayer, during which Muslims tend to withdraw from their usual daily affairs to spend extended periods in the mosque. These devotions are in addition to the five daily prayers which Muslims must observe throughout the year.

Charitable acts are an integral part of Ramadan, as they are of the Muslim faith in general. Every Muslim is expected to give *zakat* (a self-imposed tax to assist charitable organisations). The experience of hunger and thirst during the period of fasting is expected to remind the wealthy of the deprivations suffered by the poor. As a result observance of Ramadan has both personal and community dimensions.

There is, of course, a more profound and spiritual significance to Ramadan. It was in this month that the first parts of the Quran were revealed to the Prophet

Mohamed. One night when he was sleeping alone in a cave, during a period of contemplation in the countryside on Mount Hira, near Mecca, the archangel Gabriel came to him and commanded, 'Recite!'

Not knowing how to respond, Mohamed hesitated three times, and asked, 'What shall I recite?'

The answer came back: 'Lord who created all things, who created Man from clots of blood, recite. For thy Lord is the most generous, who taught by the pen, who taught man what he did not know.'

These words, which form the first four verses of the 96th Sura of the Quran, constituted the divine message received by Mohamed, then approaching his fortieth year. Over the next 23 years, until his death in June, 623 AD, the Prophet was to receive many more revelations from God, which were eventually set out in the Quran.

The exact date of the night of the first revelation, termed the *lailat al Kadr*, is not known but it does lie somewhere between the 21st and 29th days of Ramadan. Consequently, devotions reach a climax between these dates. 'The Night of Power,' declares Sura XCIV, 'is better than a thousand months: in it the angels and the Spirit descend, by the leave of their Lord.'

The conclusion of the month of Ramadan is marked with three days of feasting and celebration, *Eid al Fitr*. In the Muslim calendar this is second in importance only to *Eid al Ahda*, which marks the *Haji*.



## Libya's nominal independence: A study of colonial intrigue

**IN 1951 Libya emerged as an independent state under a system of monarchy. The story of Libya's path to this 'nominal independence' provides a study of colonialist intrigues in which western interests were always paramount to the rights and aspirations of the Libyan people. This report looks at how the colonial powers sought to stem off the tide of Arab nationalism in Libya.**

SINCE THE Al Fateh Revolution of 1st September 1969, the adjective 'nominal' has come into widespread use when describing the independent status achieved by Libya in 1951. The fact that Libya in the days of the Idris regime was heavily dependent on, and identified with, the western states is a matter of common knowledge. British and American forces maintained a series of large military bases in the country and the royalties paid in exchange for these constituted the state's major source of revenue. The western oil companies were another major force in the land. The very restricted extent of the Libyan government's control over major aspects of the country's economy and foreign policy is underlined by the story of the oil company executive who closed his interview with the Minister of Petroleum with the query: 'I'm on my way to see the King; is there anything you want me to tell him?'

No country where such conditions prevailed could be termed independent. But how did this situation arise? What were the circumstances that led to the creation of a state whose independence was so utterly subjugated to the dictates of foreign interests?

The story begins in 1922 when Idris, the leader of the powerful Sanoussi Order, went into exile in Egypt while his fellow countrymen in Libya were still engaged in their determined resistance to the Italian occupation. The Sanoussis were an Islamic reformist movement that had been established during the early nineteenth century in Cyrenaica. They had assumed a growing political significance as the number of their adherents increased and established an autonomous state in Cyrenaica towards the end of the 19th century. Better organised than their fellow Libyans in Tripolitania, at that time the Sanoussis constituted the main thrust of resistance to the Italian occupation.



*Independence came, but the American flag remained until 1970.*

Libyans saw the Italian entry into the Second World War in 1940 offering them a chance to throw off the yoke of occupation. In August 1940 a conference of Libyan exiles was convened in Cairo to hammer out a common policy. The representatives from Cyrenaica favoured the proclamation of a Sanoussi government in

exile, at least for their region. The Tripolitarians, however, were alarmed at Idris' regionalist approach and his concern only for his sphere of influence in eastern Libya. In addition there was the issue of the close ties he had established with the British. It was clear that Idris was relying on the British to install him one day as the ruler of Cyrenaica and towards this end he proceeded to organise, under British supervision, a Libyan Arab Defence Force that was to fight on the Allied side in the north African campaigns.

The tide of war in Libya shifted back and forth, causing great loss of life amongst the Libyans, who were innocent bystanders in this European conflict being fought out across their territory. The material damage was also terrible, particularly in the east where Tobruk and Benghazi were devastated. It was only in late 1942 that Cyrenaica finally fell into Allied hands, to be followed by Tripolitania shortly after. The Free French, meanwhile, pushing north from Chad, had occupied the Fezzan.

Before the Allied victory British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden had declared in the House of Commons that 'His Majesty's government is determined that at the end of the war the Sanoussis in Cyrenaica will in no circumstances again fall under Italian domination.' This was the only British statement on the future of Libya and it seemed as if Idris' strategy of assisting the British in exchange for their installing him as monarch in Cyrenaica was going to pay off. It did not escape the notice of Libyan nationalists that the British commitment was not to Libya as a whole, but only to Cyrenaica; that it was not to the Libyan people as a whole but only to the Sanoussis; and that in effect it was only to their protégé Idris.

British intrigue was confirmed after the expulsion of the Axis forces. The British established separate military administrations for Cyrenaica and Tripolitania while the French maintained a third for the Fezzan. The Italian occupiers having been ousted, Libya was now dismembered and run as three colonies. This situation was to persist for several years while the victorious Allies vied with each other over which of them should control the various parts of Libya.

After the end of the Second World War the Big Four met in Potsdam and San Francisco to discuss, amongst other things, the future of the former Italian colonies in Africa. The matter was referred to their Council of Foreign Ministers, which convened in London in September 1945 and again in April 1946, but was unable to reach a common policy on the future of Libya. The UK, anxious for military facilities close to the Suez Canal,

advocated a British-sponsored Sanoussi emirate in Cyrenaica. France wanted a trusteeship over the Fezzan. To maintain her colonial sphere of influence in central and north west Africa, France was prepared to concede an Italian trusteeship over Tripolitania. This would both placate the defeated colonial power and provide a European controlled territory along the borders of her Tunisian colony. Little, if any, respect for the rights of the Libyan people to independence was shown during this orgy of colonial self-interest.

The United States position was somewhat ambiguous. At the State Department, the Office of European Affairs was desperate to keep the Soviet Union out of the Mediterranean and favoured a return of Libya to Italy. The Office of Near Eastern and African Affairs, on the other hand, felt that Libya could be isolated from the developing Cold War in Europe, and Washington therefore advocated a collective trusteeship over the country by the Big Four, under United Nations auspices, to be followed by independence.

The three western allies were saved from the embarrassing spectacle of a bitter quarrel over Libya between Britain and France, on the one hand, and the United States on the other. The Soviet Union proposed a four-way division of Libya, with each territory under the trusteeship of one of the Big Four, and with the USSR in control in Tripolitania. United in their fear of a Soviet presence to the immediate south of Europe, the UK, France and America now joined in opposing Moscow's position.

In 1947 the Allies' Peace Treaty with Italy was signed. This provided for a renunciation by Italy of her claims to her north African colonies, for the formation of a Four Power Commission of Investigation to visit Libya to study conditions on the ground, and for the matter to be placed before the UN if agreement could not be reached within a year. The Commission visited Libya in 1948. While the Libyan people made abundantly clear their desire for independence, the commissioners nevertheless reported that in their view Libya was not yet ready for independence because of its heavy dependence on foreign aid. Their recommendations also conflicted: the British-French-US text, reflecting their designs on the country, stressing the contrasts between Libya's three major regions, and the Soviet text stressing Libya's essential unity.

The recommendations reflected the changes that the positions of three of the four Allied powers had undergone. British Foreign Secretary Bevin had proposed independence for Libya, after a period of Italian trusteeship. The Soviet Union, fearing that British ties with the Sanoussis would leave Britain in a strong position in an independent Libya, had countered with a proposal for a collective trusteeship similar to the earlier US proposal. Later, with the prospect of a strong swing to the left in the 1948 Italian elections, Russia



*Omar Mukhtar: His martyrdom betrayed.*

had changed her position again, advocating now an Italian trusteeship over Libya. The United States, meanwhile, fearful that if it stood on the principle of trusteeship in Libya, this might entail the loss of its possessions in the Pacific, had abandoned its original trusteeship plan and now sought a compromise between the British and French positions.

The powers were deadlocked and had little choice but to refer the question to the United Nations General Assembly, scheduled to meet on 15th September 1948. But there was still another attempt by the western states, this time by Britain and Italy, to secure their hegemony over Libya. This took the form of the Bevin-Sforza agreement, named after its architects, the two states' Foreign Ministers, which was published in May 1949. The agreement provided for a British trusteeship over Cyrenaica, an Italian trusteeship over Tripolitania and a French trusteeship over the Fezzan, with Libyan independence to come in effect after ten

years. The Bevin-Sforza agreement was greeted with dismay in Libya and prompted violent demonstrations in Tripoli. The plan was nevertheless put to the UN General Assembly but was rejected by a majority of only one vote.

So determined was Britain to retain her influence in Libya, however, that two weeks after the defeat of the Bevin-Sforza agreement, she announced the grant of partial self-government to Cyrenaica and declared that in time this would be followed by independence. Foreign affairs and defence were retained in British hands and British troops and military installations were to remain. This move by Britain to build on her *de facto* control was supported by the United States.

The question of Libyan independence came before the United Nations again in autumn 1949. On 21st November Resolution 289 was passed, which called for Libya to become independent not later than 1st January 1952. Adrian Pelt, a Dutch UN official, was despatched to supervise the transition to independence. He saw his mission as a race against time. If the country could not be steered to independence by the specified date, there was little doubt that the western colonial powers would move in again to decide Libya's future.

Within Libya there was conflict between Idris and his British supporters, on the one hand, who were intent on leadership by the Sanoussis, and the rising generation of Arab nationalists who were concerned that Libya should not become closely allied with the west. It nevertheless became clear that if independence of any sort was to be achieved, it would have to be under the British protégé Idris and the nationalists therefore relented. In December 1951 Libya declared its independence with the Sanoussi leader as monarch.

The road to Libyan independence thus wound not thorough the wishes of the Libyan people, but through the capitals of the major western states. Britain and the United States, supported by the French, who were at first so vehemently opposed to independence, finally realised that it was in this very independence, if handled skilfully, that their imperial interests could best be served. A compliant monarch was installed in a country dependent on western aid. British and American bases were maintained. The Soviets were excluded. All the West's interests were safeguarded and the very fact that the Libyan regime had been created by external interests entered freely into its commitments with the west could be used to neutralise critics of the new order.

The stage had been set in Libya to allow western powers to exploit the country for almost two decades more. For the Libyan people independence was in reality little different to colonial rule. In fact, this western inspired 'independence' had planted the seeds of revolution.

Dr Alan George





Young Libyans protected by modern health facilities

## Free Health Service for all the people

'MAN'S FREEDOM is lacking if somebody else controls what he needs.' These words from Muammer Qadhafi's *Green Book*, in which the principles that guide the Libyan Revolution are set out, are the key to an understanding of why revolutionary Libya places such great emphasis on the development of its health care system. No human need is more profound than good health. All Libyans now have access to free medical services, and in addition can avail themselves of treatment overseas, when required, with the Health Secretariat footing the bill. The Libyan Jamahiriya is a welfare state *par excellence*, and stands in sharp contrast to the situation in pre-revolutionary times when medical care was largely the privilege of those rich enough to afford the cost of expensive imported drugs and doctors' fees.

Life expectancy figures represent a very good measure of the efficiency of a country's health services and the figure for Libya underscores the great strides that the Jamahiriya has made in the standards of its health care facilities.

Recently published statistics from the

**THE QUALITY of any society is marked by its ability to provide a comprehensive health service freely to all its people. Today, Libya's massive investment in health care services which span this massive North African country ensures that no citizen need fear injury or disease.**

World Bank show that by 1977 life expectancy at birth in Libya stood at 55 years. This confirmed that the trend in recent years has been maintained. In 1960 life expectancy of the average Libyan was on 45 years, and by 1974 this had risen to 53 years. Libya's progress in this respect has been much greater than that of comparable countries. In Saudi Arabia, for example, average life expectancy stood at only 48 years in 1977 and in Iran the figure was only 52 years.

The most obvious manifestation of the progress made is the greatly increased number of hospitals. In 1968, the year before the Revolution, there were only 41 hospitals in Libya with a total of 5,646 beds. By 1978 the number of hospitals had increased by 50 per cent in a decade to 60 and the number of beds to 13,347. Reviewing the progress that had been achieved in the health sector in his address to the General People's Congress in Tripoli in January, Planning Secretary Mr Musa Abu Freiwa reported that by 1979 the number of hospital beds had increased to 13,418 and that the figure was scheduled to reach 14,160 by the end of the year. The rate of hospital building has outstripped Libya's population growth, for in 1968 there were only 3.1 beds per thousand people, a ratio that had risen to five per thousand by 1978.

Hospitals are far from being the only health establishments that have been increased in number. In the hierarchy of health care facilities in the Jamahiriya, community clinics rank second after hospitals. These clinics cater for the needs of outpatients, and provide prenatal care

## Dramatic Increase in medical staff

*THE MASSIVE expansion of the Libyan Jamahiriya's welfare system during the past eleven years since the Al Fateh Revolution in 1969 has been marked by an equally impressive programme to ensure the availability of trained medical and ancillary staff.*

*The country still relies to a considerable extent on foreign doctors and other medical staff but increasing numbers of Libyans are now qualifying and the aim is eventually to run the whole health service without foreign expertise. In 1969 there were only 733 doctors in Libya, 62 dentists and 68 pharmacists and chemists. By 1978 the number of doctors had increased to 3,350, the number of dentists to 277 and the number of pharmacists and chemists to 538. At the same time there has been an immense increase in the number of qualified nursing personnel. In 1969 there were only 1,680 nurses and 213 midwives. By 1978 their respective numbers had increased to 4,705 and 1,412. Before 1969, one doctor served 5,800 of the population and one nurse 2,040. By 1974 the ratios had already improved significantly, with one doctor per 1,040 people and one nurse per 340 people. By 1979 the ratio of doctors to people had risen to 1:769.*

as well as being responsible for health care in schools. They operate under the direct supervision of senior staff members in hospitals. In 1977 sixteen clinics were constructed and were equipped with the most modern equipment the following year. By the end of 1978, eight of them were in operation.

Medical centres and infirmaries constitute the third and fourth ranking levels of health establishments, and are carefully located with regard to population density and the proximity of more sophisticated facilities. Each medical centre is designed to cater for about 10,000 people while each infirmary caters for about 3,000 persons, with each medical centre being responsible for the proper running of a number of infirmaries. The real significance of the medical centres and infirmaries lies in their role in bringing health care to the residents of the more remote regions of Libya, a central objective in Libya's health care planning since the Revolution. By 1978 there were already 71 medical centres and 141 infirmaries in the Jamahiriya and their number has increased considerably since then. In mid-June it was reported that a South Korean com-

pany had won a \$4.2 million contract to build a medical office and three health centres at Sabratha, west of Tripoli, while an Italian firm is currently negotiating for a contract to build six new medical centres in the Libyan capital.

Libya's crude birth rate, at 48 per thousand population according to the World Bank figures for 1977, is amongst the highest in the world and it is thus no surprise that great emphasis has also been placed on prenatal care. The services offered at the Al Jala Maternity Hospital in Tripoli, which opened in 1972, typify those now available in the Jamahiriya. The hospital's reception hall has a relaxed and informal atmosphere, with background music, and is more akin to a hotel reception area than a hospital. An internal telephone system allows visits to talk with patients and nurses in the wards. Although the mothers rarely stay in the hospital for longer than 24 hours, the hospital staff seize on this opportunity to educate them in child care. The internal radio station installed at the hospital provides both music and short lectures and it is hoped to establish a television link with the medical faculty at the Al Fateh University in Tripoli. Fathers visiting their wives at the hospital are also given welfare advice.

But if the curative health services available in the Jamahiriya have been enhanced dramatically in recent years, preventive medicine has also seen great strides. Babies and children receive compulsory vaccination (BCG, and immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, infantile paralysis, measles and smallpox). Malaria has been eradicated as a result of a concentrated pest-clearance campaign in the mosquito breeding regions although before the Revolution the country was at the top of the list of malaria-affected countries produced by the World Health Organisation. The incidence of trachoma has been sharply reduced while tuberculosis, which formerly affected 101 persons in every ten thousand, by 1975 affected only six people per ten thousand. Courses at schools and health centres throughout Libya stress the importance of hygiene while another major factor in combating disease has been the great extension of safe water supplies in recent years. According to the World Bank, 87 per cent of Libyans had access to safe water in 1974 but their most recent figures show that by the following year the entire population was assured of clean water.

The great progress achieved in health care in the Libyan Jamahiriya since the Revolution is reflected in the expenditure figures. In the eight years prior to 1969 development budget allocations for public health totalled only LD16.6 million and the highest annual outlay was in 1967, when the figure was LD5.5 million. In the first eight years of the Revolution expenditure on health totalled a massive LD142.4 million, with the annual outlays rising to LD41 million in 1977.

These monies have been well spent. The Libyan Jamahiriya can now boast a system of health care without parallel in most countries of the Third World, and one which compares favourably even with those in industrialised states. The country now has an integrated range of medical facilities stretching to the remotest corners of the land. A very solid base has been constructed and the main task for the future will be to consolidate the progress already achieved, particularly in the field of personnel. The current dependence on foreign specialists will no doubt continue for some time to come but the day is not that far off when Libya's medical services will be entirely run by the country's own nationals.

## A caring hand for the disabled

*A NOTABLE aspect of health care in the Jamahiriya is the emphasis placed on programmes for the disabled. This was perhaps a consequence of the large numbers of Libyans maimed and crippled during the Second World War, when the Libyan people were innocent bystanders caught in the cross-fire of the bitter European war being fought across their territory. The vast minefields sown during the war took a particularly terrible toll on Libyans, and to this day are claiming victims. But the deaf, dumb, the blind and the mentally ill are accorded equal attention to the maimed.*

*In 1971 a committee was established to study the potential for establishing special institutes for those who are crippled, mentally ill, paralysed or blind and in the 1972-3 school year educational services for the deaf and dumb were inaugurated. \$10.2 million was allocated for the establishment of two institutions for the deaf and dumb in Tripoli and Benghazi while great attention has been given to ensuring job opportunities for the handicapped. In addition, a rehabilitation and vocational training centre for the disabled has been established at a cost of \$5.1 million.*

*Libya's commitment to the handicapped was underlined by the news in early July that a conference is to be held in April 1981 to mark the United Nations International Year of the Handicapped. The conference, the first of its kind, will discuss psychological, health, professional and judicial problems facing handicapped people as well as facilities provided for them. It was the Libyan Jamahiriya that in 1977 proposed the designation of 1981 as the International Year of the Handicapped.*



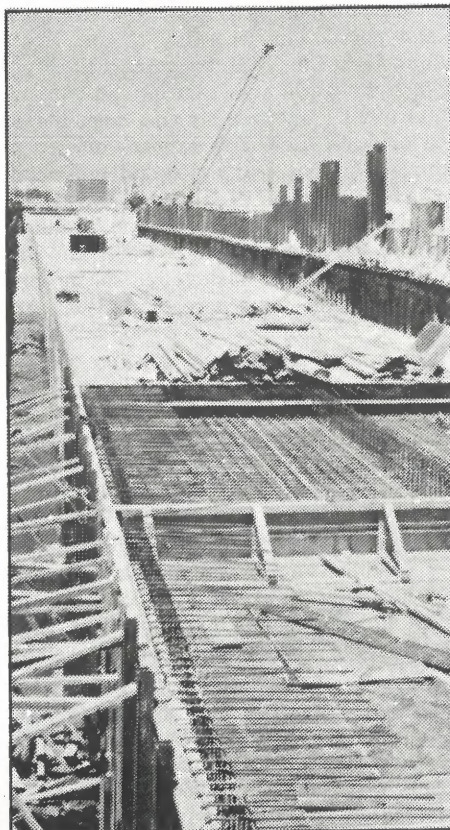
THE OUTLINE for a bold plan for integrated development in the Arab world to the year 2000 was the promising outcome of a four-day summit in Amman, the capital of Jordan, during early July. Foreign and economy ministers from twenty Arab states and the Palestine Liberation Organisation attended the talks convened by the Economic and Social Council of the Arab League.

The mood of the conference was reflected in the speech given by the Libyan Jamahiriya's Foreign Secretary, Dr Ali al-Treiki. He stressed both the loss to the Arab peoples brought about by the divisions within the Arab world and the failure to co-operate on important political and economic issues, and the need to give priority to the liberation of the occupied Arab lands (see inset report).

The final statement issued on 9th July referred to the need to develop and work to a programme 'on three pan-Arab axes'. These embraced 'firstly, the need to intensify and consolidate economic relations among the Arab countries; secondly, the need to employ Arab-international economic relations in the service of pan-Arab interests and issues; and thirdly, the need to confront the exacerbating Zionist-Israeli danger.'

The conference said the proposed programme for joint action on pan-Arab development was designed to 'interact with regional action' provided that the two were in harmony. The council approved the strategy for joint Arab economic action until the year 2000. The statement declared, 'This strategy represents a historic turning point for the Arab economic sphere because it pursues the objectives of Arab unity, development, liberation and integration and adopts long-term planning for development, with a view to achieving production integration as a means of reorganising and developing

## Bold Plan for Year 2000



Arab development: The Libyan Jamahiriya sets the pace

Arab resources in the joint economic sector, as well as rationalising the exploitation of these resources.

It continued, 'The strategy adopts a system of integrated development, giving special importance to human aspects.

The development of human resources and the acquisition of technological ability are given absolute priority.'

And in the wake of threats of American grain embargoes in pursuit of political goals, and as a reminder of the call by the Muammer Qadhafi some years ago that the Jamahiriya could only be truly free from foreign influences when the country had become self-sufficient in food supplies, the Council stressed the need to give 'priority to the subject of food security in view of its connection with pan-Arab security.'

The statement added, 'Basic industrialisation and the development of infrastructure are prominent among the basic goals.'

In short, the Council's meeting has approved the general principles of a scheme which will integrate Arab development within a single long-term plan, reducing the imbalances which currently exist between the richer oil producing Arab states and those without such mineral resources to finance their economic and industrial development.

The Council's statement drew attention to the scheme's place within the overall desire to establish 'the new international order', which has been the quest of Third World nations in the ongoing, and largely unproductive North-South Dialogue.

As a consequence of the meeting the 1980s have been designated 'A decade for joint Arab development', with the purpose of helping to 'narrow the development gap between the various parts of the Arab homeland.'

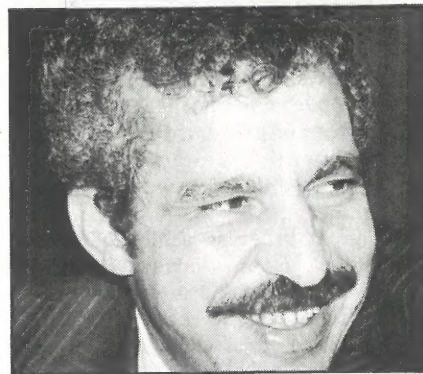
Yet despite the obvious need for such a plan to be implemented and the benefits which would accrue, the ministers decided to set up a seven-member Arab League committee to draw up an overall Arab strategy of action in the political, economic and military fields.

## Libyan Secretary depllores waste of Arab potential

ADDRESSING THE Arab Social and Economic Council during its July meeting in Amman, the Libyan Foreign Secretary said that in the absence of an integrated Arab unity, economy and manpower programme in the Arab countries, the community will remain insignificant on the international scene, which he described as being dominated by political and economic polarisations.

Dr Ali Al-Treiki pointed out that Arab resources, both human and economic, are great but the Arab countries have failed so far to achieve real co-operation or integration among themselves for both internal and external reasons.

The Zionist occupation of Palestine and other Arab territories aims mainly to prevent the progress of the Arab nation, and to prevent it from becoming a great power that might challenge



Dr Ali al Treiki

other super powers in the world, Dr Treiki charged.

To give priority to liberation in this stage of struggle, he added, is undoubt-

edly of great importance. 'The great resources,' he said, 'that we employ for defence should have been used for economic development instead.' However, he stressed that given the current situation, the Arab peoples have no alternative but to devote their immediate resources and priorities to asserting their territorial integrity in the Arab homeland.

In the political section of the Council's statement, support was expressed for the Libyan Jamahiriya within the concept of the 'Arab collective defence pact', against what the Council considered 'the Egyptian regime's threats and military concentrations on the border with Libya.'

The Council described the Egyptian ruler's recent threats against the Libyan Jamahiriya as 'part of the Camp David plans.'

'WHAT MAKES the Libyan revolution special is Qadhafi's driving ambition to keep up the pace of economic growth. He has more vision and commitment — and certainly more energy — than most leaders, but he is greedy for instant results. And, as one Libyan official put it, "When everything is a priority, what comes first?"'

These words from the recent report on Libya by Michel Szwed-Cousins in the weekly news magazine *8 Days* provide a brief summary of the situation in the Jamahiriya as seen by a journalist who has lived in Tripoli in the past. His report published on 5th July emphasises that the very pace of social, economic and political change now being set in Libya is bound to create such upheavals that to the inexperienced observer all might seem to be in chaos.

'It is a mere eleven years since the founding of the Libyan Jamahiriya, and only sixteen since the exploitation of its oil reserves began,' says the report's introduction. 'The speed of the country's industrial and social evolution has bewildered many observers, but behind the apparent chaos lies a coherent and unaltered ethos, formulated by Muammer Qadhafi in tandem with the Libyan people.'

Szwed-Cousins attempts to penetrate beyond the superficial images which a visitor (including western newsmen) absorb. On one hand there is a commitment in Libya to rapid social and economic development to thrust the Jamahiriya into the twentieth century, as a modern industrialised welfare state. On the other hand, the very nature of the Al-Fateh Revolution led by Muammer Qadhafi is about upturning the old social order, and challenging the traditional centres of power, whether they be in the bureaucracy of government or the control of private industry. To embark on both revolutions simultaneously must create some problems, but the issue is not that they exist, but whether they are recognised, and whether solutions have been formulated.

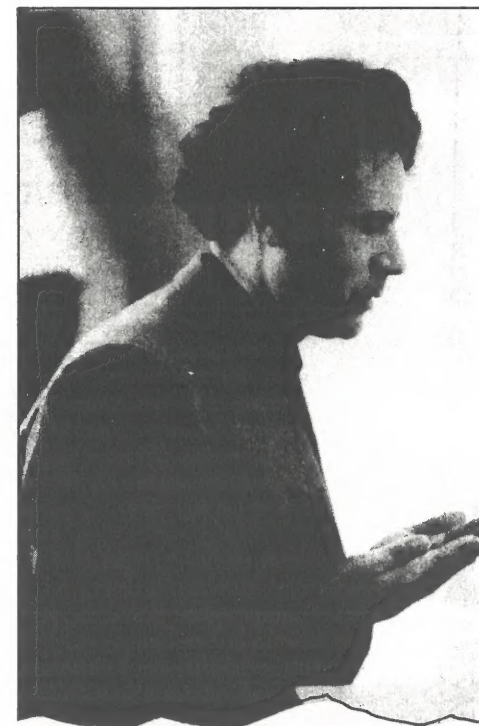
As the report observes, 'Libya is no bureaucrat's paradise. Political decisions are turned rapidly — some would say too rapidly — into economic and social action.'

'While he throws open the doors deliberately to social and political upheaval, even forcing the pace of change, Qadhafi is determined at the same time to maintain the momentum of industrial growth in the thick of what appears to the westerner as chaos, and to upset the merchants and the middle class elements within the country,' says the report.

So, what are the real problems which Libya's planners and citizens are experiencing, and how accurate is the overall picture portrayed by the generally hostile western media?

The *8 Days* report declares, 'It would be totally inaccurate to say, as most of the world's press has, that there is any serious opposition in Libya.'

Dealing with the investigations into



'8 Days' magazine looks behind the myths

## QADDAFI'S ECONOMIC REVOLUTION FORCING THE PACE OF CHANGE

It is a mere eleven years since the founding of the Libyan Jamahiriya, and only sixteen since the exploitation of its oil reserves began. The speed of the country's industrial and social evolution has bewildered many observers, but behind the apparent chaos lies a coherent and unaltered ethos, formulated by Muammer Qadhafi in tandem with the Libyan people. MICHEL SZWED-COUSINS reports from Libya on the country's successes and failures in its attempt to pursue simultaneous economic growth and social reform.

## Behind the image of Libya

**WHILE THE western media has dedicated itself to portraying the Libyan Jamahiriya in the image of economic chaos and political division, a recent report by *8 Days* magazine gives a much different picture. Written by a former resident of Tripoli, it suggests that not only does the Revolution recognise the problems created by the pace of change, but it also holds the solutions.**

corruption earlier this year, it continues, 'Recent purges of senior officials and technocrats have caused another disruption for the economy to contend with while it goes through revolutionary re-programming. Despite reports that thousands ended up in jail, many were in fact simply suspended from their jobs, investigated, and then either returned to their old positions or given new ones.'

And while the western media claims that dictatorship is in the hands of Muammer Qadhafi, Szwed-Cousins sees problems created by the degree and extent of democracy which Qadhafi has thrust upon the Libyan people. He notes, 'The authority and power of Muammer Qadhafi is everywhere — and nowhere. Though he is the moving spirit and driving force, authority has been thrown to the General People's Congress and scattered among the people's committees.'

The report adds, 'Decisions are sometimes rushed through democratically at the lowest levels, sometimes held up in days of fierce debate, and occasionally delayed by nervous officials afraid to make some move that could be deemed to be against the will of the Jamahiriya.'

Szwed-Cousins also takes a critical look at some of the problems confronting the Jamahiriya and her planners. The new democracy has created delays in the development plan, coupled with others which have come about because the transformation plan depends on an infrastructure which is not yet adequate to support so ambitious a scheme.

Other delays and problems have resulted from Libya's dependency on foreign manpower, an issue which the Jamahiriya's massive development and expansion programme in the education and training field is set to cure in the decade ahead. Additionally, the introduction of conscription in response to military threats from the Sadat regime in neighbouring Egypt and from the United States have undoubtedly compounded this problem. And with the development programme with yet another decade or so to run, no one could accuse the Libyan people of failing to recognise problems that exist in such areas as the need for more housing.

Yet Szwed-Cousins points out, 'despite all these problems, which the Libyans would be the last to deny, it would be wrong to dismiss the economy as crippled. Other countries have gone through as radical a revolutionary upheaval as Libya, and emerged the other side. It is simply that Libya happens to be at the centre of its period of upheaval.'



## Six million Libyans by year 2000

THE NUMBER of Libyans is projected to rise to six million by the year 2000 according to a recent census in the Libyan Jamahiriya. JANA, the Jamahiriya News Agency, reported on 24th May that the current Libyan population is 3,245,000, of which 441,200 are non-Libyans. These latest figures show a growth rate of 3.9 per cent. The current workforce, the survey shows, is 800,000 strong, including 58,900 women.

According to the Tunisian Minister of Planning and Finance, Mansur Moalla, some 500,000 new jobs are needed every year in the Magreb countries to meet population increases and to overcome problems of unemployment.

Libya, with its relatively small population, is alone amongst the Magreb countries in not having a problem of unemployment. Rather the reverse dilemma faces Libyan planners where vacancies, especially for skilled manpower, outnumber available workers, creating a heavy dependence on expatriates.

The Tunisian minister, addressing a seminar on employment in the Magreb in Tunis on 10th June, said that his country needed to create a further 55,000 new jobs by 1981, and a further 64,000 in the following five years to 1986.

The problem facing the Magreb was made more serious he said by the fact that 60 per cent of the unemployed were under 25.

## Third World calls for IMF change

TWO CONFERENCES of Third World countries have called for the replacement of the International Monetary Fund with a new body more sympathetic to the requirements of developing nations. Meeting in the northern Tanzanian town of Arusha in early July, delegates from 24 mainly developing countries declared that the IMF had lost its legitimacy and needed replacement. They also called for a new currency unit, to be backed by commodities, for use in international transactions. The conference, which was non-governmental and was organised by the Swedish-based Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, proposed 'the establishment of a universal and democratically controlled international monetary authority in order to set up an equitable international monetary system.'

The Arusha conference echoed the feelings of a seminar held in Abu Dhabi in late June, co-



Textile workers in Morocco: Need to create more employment in the region.

sponsored by the Arab Monetary Fund and the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority. In his opening address, Dr Jawad Hashem, AMF President, said the objective of the conference was not only to make the present international monetary system more efficient 'but also more equitable, more democratic and more supportive of the interests of developing countries.' The seminar was attended by government monetary experts from the developing countries in the Group of 77 non-aligned members of the UN Conference on Trade and Development.

The IMF is the principal source of loans to finance the budget deficits of developing countries but the organisation has repeatedly come under heavy fire for the stringent conditions it attaches to its loans. These include spending cuts by the recipients, including devaluation and deflation. These measures may be effective in the industrialised western economies but they often have resulted in severe deprivation amongst the people of recipient countries. Countries such as Tanzania and Jamaica, which have been at the forefront of the IMF's critics, argue that such measures are inappropriate for developing countries, whose productive capacity is too restricted to enable their economies to respond to them.

The demand at the two conferences for greater Third World influence over the international monetary system reflects a widespread belief that the IMF represents a tool which

the rich interfere in the domestic policies of the poor. This feeling was endorsed by the Brandt Commission's report on North-South relations, published earlier this year, which commented, 'The IMF's insistence on drastic measures, often within one year, has tended to impose unnecessary and unacceptable political burdens on the poorest.'

The bitterness of recipients at the terms of IMF loans is sharpened by their knowledge that many of their economic ills can be traced back to the industrialised states. This was underlined by Dr Hashem at the Abu Dhabi conference when he reviewed the current crisis in the world economy, saying, 'Recession appears to lead only to prospects of further recession' and concluding that while the crises originate in the industrialised western economies, it is the developing countries that are on the receiving end.

It is usual in the west to blame Third World indebtedness on oil price rises but the falsity of this view was emphasised while the Arusha meeting was still in progress when the IMF's managing director Jacques de Larosiere himself pointed out that oil accounts for only one fifth of the import bill of the least developed countries. More important, he said, 'is the inflation in industrialised countries, which is passed on in the price of their exports.' Despite this admission, however, he insisted that IMF loans would remain conditional on deflationary measures being taken.

## Gulf insurance pact signed

THIRTY-ONE Gulf insurance and reinsurance companies signed the final agreement on 1st July for the creation of the Arab Fund for War Risk Insurance. The syndicate, to be based in Baghdad, will come into operation on 1st January next year and will handle only war, strikes, riots and civil commotions coverage. The syndicate was formed in response to Lloyds of London's decision last year to declare the Gulf a war risk zone.

Mr Khalil Shami, chairman of a conference attended by the 31 companies, said there were no links between the new fund and the mammoth \$3 billion Arab group for insurance and reinsurance set up by the Libyan Jamahiriya, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates in April. 'But a relationship would develop between the two Arab institutions in future,' he added.

## OAPEC sets up engineering consultancy

THE LIBYAN Jamahiriya, together with its partners in the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), is currently setting up a consultant engineering company with an authorised capital of \$40 million. The decision to go ahead with the project was taken by OAPEC Oil Ministers at their meeting that ended in Algiers on 8th June. The company is expected to be operational by the end of the year.

In an interview, Mr Azizi Amara Kourbeh, a senior engineering expert at OAPEC, said the company, the first of its kind in the Arab homeland, will operate in two main fields: technical studies and plan operation. The studies will include project supervision in the implementation stage, while plan operation will involve evaluation, feasibility studies and identification of projects in petroleum industries. Mr Kourbeh said the company will start with projects in OAPEC member states, and will then take on projects in other Arab countries, followed by African and Asian states.

## Tripoli venue for Islamic broadcasters

THE GENERAL assembly of the Islamic Broadcasting Organisation is to meet in Tripoli on 30th September. The executive council of the Organisation is to meet in the Libyan capital on 17th September to prepare for the general assembly's meeting.

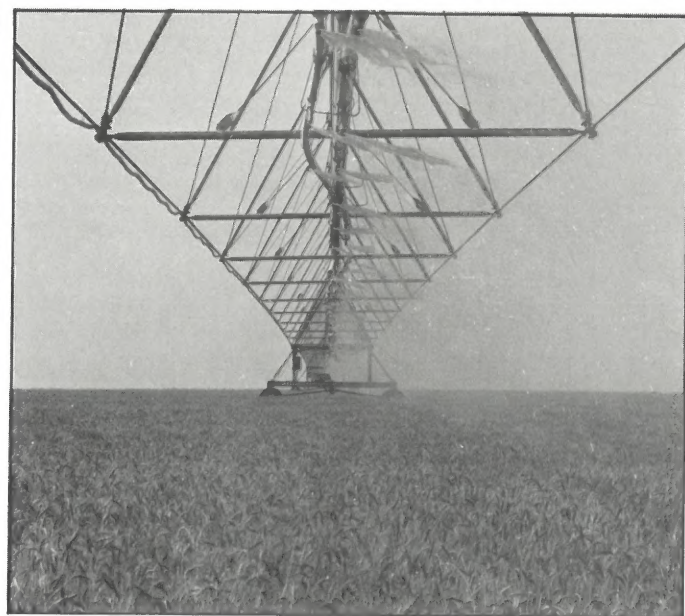
## Scheme for Sebha university

WITH THE Jamahiriya's mammoth socio-economic development programme creating an urgent need for highly skilled manpower, in July news came of an ambitious new project to establish a third Libyan university at Sebha, deep in the Sahara. A contract for the design and construction supervision of the university has been awarded by Tripoli's Al Fateh University to Technital International General Engineering of Italy, who will work in association with Italian architects Progress Recherche Studi. The project will cost an estimated \$100 million and will take up to four years to complete. Design work is expected to be completed within a year. There are currently two universities in the country, at Benghazi and Tripoli, as well as a number of higher institutes of technology.

## New towns for Ras Lanouf and Jebel Akhdar

HAVING INHERITED a situation in 1969 where 65,000 families were homeless, the Libyan Revolution acted swiftly and decisively in the sphere of housing and urban development and by 1978 148,626 new housing units had been constructed. There has been no slowing of the pace of development in this sector, however, and in July it was announced that Budopol of Poland is to supervise the design and construction of eight towns, being rebuilt in the Jebel Akhdar region in north east Libya. The contract includes road design, electricity networks and other infrastructure and the largest town, Al Adjar, will house 2,000 people.

*Middle East Economic Digest* also reported that tender documents to build a new town at the Jamahiriya's new petrochemicals centre at Ras Lanouf on the coast south west of Benghazi were to be issued by the end of July. The town is to be built about 17 km west of the petrochemicals complex and by 1985 will house an estimated 15,000 people, of whom 4,000 will work at the complex. The population is planned to rise to 40,000 by the year 2000. The town will take up to five years to complete, at a cost estimated at \$1,351 million. The Dovecon consulting group of Finland has the contract for design and building supervision. The firm recently agreed to design, supervise and report on 100 homes powered by solar energy to be built in the town. Dovecon is also involved in



The Jamahiriya acts to boost food supplies

design for two other consultancy contracts in Libya: improving the water supply of Homs, and a scheme for power, water and other infrastructure for Sabratha.

## Rapid development of electricity sector

THE BRITISH journal *Middle East Construction* commented in a July review of electricity supply development in the Middle East that 'Libya has taken massive strides in its electricity programme in a very short space of time, a reflection of the revolutionary government's determination to thrust the country into the twentieth century. Electricity generation capacity, and the distribution grid, will continue to grow as the country's development programme advances, for in 1985 it is expected that 1,800 mW will be consumed and by the end of the century the rate will be 4,700 mW per annum.'

As if to underline the magazine's conclusions, it was announced in July that Medelec Switchgear of Malta had won a \$12.5 million contract to supply 50 11 kVA main substations. Most components will be obtained abroad and will be assembled by Medelec for shipment to Libya. Medelec was established in 1978 by the Jamahiriya's Public Electrical Works Company, which has a 51 per cent holding, GEC Distribution Switchgear of the UK (26 per cent) and the Libyan Arab Maltese Holding Company with the Malta Development Corporation, which have a 23 per cent stake in the concern. The UK company is currently nearing the end of a three-year management contract.

The 11 kVA switchgear is being

supplied by GEC Distribution and the 630 kVA transformers by GEC Broadstairs, also part of the GEC group. Low voltage distribution boards are being built by Malta's Mediterranean Power Equipment. Most ancillary equipment, such as batteries, lighting and safety gear, will come from the UK. Prefabricated housing will be supplied by British and Swiss firms. The substations are for the Electricity Secretariat and will be used mainly in the Tripoli area. According to GEC Distribution, the order specifies fitting half the substations with conventional oil circuit breakers and the rest with vacuum interruptors, a more modern three-phase switch. It says this is the first major Libyan order for the vacuum switch.

In another development, the Jamahiriya news agency JANA reported that a scheme to set up an Arab electrical company was approved at a recent meeting in Tripoli of the board of directors of the Arab Company for Oil Services.

## Progress in heavy and light industry

WHEN LIBYA'S Planning Secretary Mr Musa Abu Freiwa reviewed the country's development progress at the General Peoples Congress in early January, he was able to report an increase in industrial output of 15.7 per cent in 1979, and the Jamahiriya's industrialisation programme is continuing to surge ahead this year.

In early July it was reported that a \$31 million contract for the turnkey supply and extension of a limeworks had been won by Babcock Krauss-Maffei Industrieanlagen of West Germany. The

works, for the Heavy Industry Secretariat, will be built in Souk al Khamis near Tripoli. Capacity is 300 tons a day of burnt and hydrated lime, to be used mainly in the building industry, and the plant is expected to come on steam by mid-1982.

Later in July the Light Industry Secretariat invited tenders for the construction of an ultra-modern fully automatic plant for the production of industrial and medical alcohol, vinegar and dry bakery yeast in the coastal town of Homs. Closing date for submission of tenders is 1st October.

## Food projects proceed

FOLLOWING THE news in June that Edilveneta of Italy had begun work on a \$33.8 million contract for civil works on a major irrigation project at Bani Walid, 200 km south of Tripoli, comes evidence of further Italian involvement in the Jamahiriya's programme of agricultural development.

It was reported in July that a \$61 million turnkey contract for irrigation works near Al Marj in the Jebel Akhdar of north eastern Libya had been won by Italy's Societa Generale Immobiliare. The contract is for designing and building seven dams along 70 kms of irrigation canals. They will be 13 metres high and 350 metres in length and will help control the water level in three 45 hectare reservoirs which provide water to 1,100 farms in the region. Work will start in three months and should be completed within 30 months.

In May the Libyan-Arab Construction Company won a \$60.8 million contract for a dam and water supply installations at Al Marj.

## New ship for Libyan fleet

THE LIBYAN-Algerian maritime fleet has been supplemented by the *Taboura*, which the Jamahiriya News Agency JANA reported was delivered on 22nd June. It is the line's fifth ship.

Libya has been making strenuous efforts to develop its tanker and cargo fleet in an attempt to loosen her dependence on foreign shipping. By 1977 the oil tanker fleet, which was inaugurated four years earlier with the 5,500 ton *Umm al Furud*, totalled ten tankers with a combined tonnage of 714,500 tons. At that time there were three further tankers on order, each of 154,000 tons. The cargo fleet was started in 1971 with the 2,900 ton *Al Timsah*, and by 1978 numbered nine ships with a total tonnage of 42,900 tons.



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# jamahiriya review

SEPTEMBER 1980

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